Installation of faulty electronic meters in Delhi

887. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minsiter of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items titled "DERC question meter norms" appearing in the media;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) has conducted field surveys and found that most of the electronic meters installed in Delhi are running too fast; and

(d) if so, the names of the companies who have supplied these meters and what action the Commission has taken to replace these faulty meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has statutory duty to specify and enforce standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of services provided by licensees.

(c) and (d) Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has set up a committee to look into the various complaints received from the consumers in connection with their electricity meters. The Committee which undertook testing of about 375 meters has observed that more than 91% of the meters so tested recorded consumption level which were within the prescribed limit given in the Indian Electricity Rules. About 2% of the meters were found to be slow and 0.5% were faster than the prescribed limit. About 5% of the meters, however, were found to be defective. The findings of the committee were published through a Press Note by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). These recommendations are Annexed.

Subsequent to the issue of press replease Commission has also tested about 38 meters. Out of these 6 electronic meters replaced by distribution companies and 4 electromechanical meters installed during Delhi Vidyut Board period were found to be fast and one meter was found to be slow beyond the specified limit. DERC at present is looking into the procedure/norsm for testing of meters.

Distribution companies have been advised by DERC to take necessary action on the line of these recommendations.